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FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR YEAR
1967

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Late Hon. Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Joseph Bennett Compton, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

James Marley Yarham, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

Mrs. E. North.



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The Chairman & Members,
Felixstowe Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1967. This is my twentieth annual report, the first having been issued for the year 1947 when the austerities of wartime still cast a shadow over the country and most commodities were unobtainable. Felixstowe, in those days, was just beginning to take stock of the situation and to examine the possibilities of reviving its prewar popularity as a seaside health resort. There was practically no industry of any magnitude and the dock was mainly concerned with the ferry service to Harwich and a little coastwise trade.

The intervening years have seen very great changes, not only in the material sense but also in the outlook of the population. Building restarted early after the war but a setback occurred when the East Coast Flood in 1953 devastated the south end of the town with heavy loss of life.

The expansion of the docks, the introduction of light industry and the drive to supply a sufficiency of houses have had their effect and a bustling, forward looking spirit is now a noticable sign of the times.

The town has always enjoyed a well deserved reputation for healthy surroundings and this has been maintained during the past year.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to the Council and their officers for their continuous help and support during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. H. Imrie

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1968.

Population, Births & Deaths

It will be seen that the steady increase in the Population of Felixstowe continued in 1967 when the population rose to 19450.

The Live Birth Rate corresponded closely to the rate for England & Wales while the General Death Rate was well below the national average.

All the figures for 1967 indicates that the healthy growth of the town is being well maintained.

Causes of Death

In 1967 the deaths totalled 261, which is the same as the figure for the previous year. Inspection of the table of Causes shows the detailed comparison of the two years.

In 1967 there was an increase in the main groups of causes. Heart and Circulatory causes as a group increased by 13. It will be seen that while malignant disease of the lung was slightly down the deaths from malignancy in the female breast were increased.

Deaths due to the smaller and numerically less important groups showed a smaller decrease.

Infectious disease was responsible for only one death during the period. This was a case of Tuberculosis in an aged person. Deaths from violent causes, accidents and suicide were the same as for last year.

Notifiable Disease

The table of notifications shows that with the exception of measles, which accounted for more than 250 notifications, the incidence of notifiable disease was negligible during 1967 and there was a complete absence of the serious major infections.

As I have mentioned in previous reports measles has been selected as the next disease to receive intensive preventative attention. A measles vaccine, after prolonged trials and tests has been put into use. Hopes are high that it will eliminate this troublesome complaint but it is too early to be certain about the completeness and duration of the protection.

The number of Tuberculosis cases on the register fell by 5 during the year. This decrease in what was once a very prevalent malady has continued over a number of years.

Immunisation against certain infections has continued during the year and I am grateful to the County Medical Officer for the relevant figures for Felixstowe.

	Primary Courses	Booster or Revaccination	Total 1967	Total 1966
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	237	233	470	256
Diphtheria/Tetanus	2	149	151	146
Pertussis	1	-	1	-
Tetanus	1	23	24	43
Poliomyelitis Salk	4	2	6	36
Poliomyelitis Sabin	253	412	665	382
Smallpox vaccination	203	116	319	286

It will be observed that during 1967 most forms of immunisation gained in popularity. In some measure this may be due to an increasing awareness of the value of protection especially in an age when the mobility of the population has increased the hazards of infection being spread.

Housing

The general housing situation continues to improve in Felixstowe. Much of the old and substandard accommodation has been swept away or is in the process of elimination while fresh accommodation is becoming available.

If, as is anticipated, trade and industry continues to expand in Felixstowe the need for more extensive planning will have to be envisaged to provide for future needs.

The development of the improvement area in Walton will be a realistic step towards improving that area of the town.

Felixstowe is well provided with caravan sites for holidaymakers but so far has no residential sites. Although I am doubtful about the need for this latter type of site in Felixstowe there is a strong body of opinion in the Country in favour of residential sites situated within convenient reach of industrial centres. With regard to holiday camping, however, I feel that we perhaps grant too few facilities.

Water

The high degree of purity of the town's water supply has been well maintained and the quantity available has been adequate for the needs of the community.

The mains water, which is rather hard has shown no evidence of plumbosolvency at any time.

In my report for 1966. I drew attention to the fact that the mineral fluoride content was well below the optimum for a domestic supply. It will be recalled that the Council has already requested the County Council to arrange for this deficiency to be made up, but, so far, that body has not acceded to the request. However, a recent communication from the Minister of Health reiterates the importance of this measure and encourages one to think that a further approach to the County Council will have a more satisfactory outcome.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47 of the above Act deals with the removal to hospital of persons who are suffering from disease or are, aged, infirm or physically incapacitated and are living in insanitary conditions and are not receiving proper care and attention. No statutory action was found necessary.

Statistics

General Statistics

1. Area of District in acres	4,281
2. Number of inhabited houses	6,216
3. Density of population - persons per acre	4.55
4. Average number of persons per house	3.1
5. Rateable value of district	£747,017
6. Sum represented by penny rate	£2,920

Vital Statistics

Summary covering Five Years

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Population	17,860	17,750	18,460	19,210	19,490
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.78	13.	16.25	15.1	16.2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.33	.20	.27	.10	0.256
General Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.22	13.4	12.35	13.58	13.4
Actual number of deaths under 1 year	9	2	2	2	5

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	146	135	281
Illegitimate	18	17	35
			<u>316</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16.2
Birth Rate calculated for comparison
with other areas 17.3
Live Birth Rate, England & Wales 17.7

Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	1	1
			<u>5</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population .256
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Births 15.8
Still Birth Rate, England & Wales 14.8

Deaths All Causes

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
127	134	261

Death Rate per 1,000 population 13.4
Death Rate calculated for comparison 8.9
Death Rate, England & Wales 11.2

Deaths From Puerperal and Other Maternal Causes

NIL

Deaths of Infants

<u>Age</u>						<u>Total</u>	
Under 1 week		1 - 4 weeks		4 weeks - 1 year			
M	F	M	F	M	F		
-	2	-	-	1	2	5	
Total	-	2	-	-	1	2	5

Causes of Death under 1 year

	Male	Female	Total
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other diseases	-	3	3
	1	4	5

Death rate of Children under 1 year per 1,000 live births 15.8

Death rate of Children under 1 year per 1,000 England & Wales 19.0

Notifiable Disease Classified by Age

Age	Disease									
	Measles		Dysentery		Puerperal pyrexia		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	17	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	19	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	23	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	57	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Age unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	136	123	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1

Cause of Death

<u>No.</u>	Male		Female		Total	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis other	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	1	6	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasms, lungs & bronchus	5	4	3	2	8	6
12. Malignant neoplasms, breast	-	-	4	9	4	9
13. Malignant neoplasms, uterus	-	-	2	-	2	-
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	16	18	19	12	35	30
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	1	1	2	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	21	22	22	36	43
18. Coronary disease, angina	31	42	23	22	53	64
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	1	-	2	1
20. Other heart disease	10	12	20	10	30	22
21. Other circulatory disease	5	9	9	9	14	18
22. Influenza	-	-	-	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	9	5	13	14	22	19
24. Bronchitis	5	3	3	4	8	7
25. Other disease of respiratory system	2	1	1	-	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	2	1	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	5	1	5	1
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	-	-	1	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	-	-	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	-	1	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	4	12	9	17	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	-	2	1	4
34. All other accidents	2	1	3	5	5	6
35. Suicide	1	1	-	-	1	1
36. Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-	-	4	-
	115	127	146	134	261	261

Tuberculosis Tables for 1966

	Male		Female		Total
	Pulm	Non Pulm	Pulm	Non pulm	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register on 1.1.67	36	35	25	6	72
Number of cases notified under Regulations for the first time during the year	1	1	-	-	2
Number of cases restored to the Register having been removed in the previous year	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases added to the Register and brought to Notice otherwise than by primary notification	4	-	4	-	8
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	9	-	6	1	16
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	32	6	24	5	67

Reasons for Removal From T.B. Register

	Male	Female	Total
Recovered	8	6	14
Removed to other districts	-	-	-
Died (not notified as T.B.)	1	-	1
Died Tuberculosis	-	1	1
			<u>16</u>

Sunshine and Rainfall

	<u>Sunshine hours</u>	<u>Rainfall inches</u>
January	65.30	1.442
February	85.75	1.524
March	174.75	0.952
April	158.75	2.271
May	210.30	2.383
June	194.20	1.094
July	247.50	2.033
August	210.00	3.011
September	136.50	2.504
October	122.00	2.709
November	65.25	2.191
December	71.00	1.578

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Average hours of Sunshine per day	4.28	4.05	4.77
Actual inches of Rainfall for year	29.452	29.519	23.692

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(C)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to apply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) : Apparel) Making etc.						
Cleaning & Washing	1	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains & nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & upholstery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plaste	-	-	-	-	-	-
File making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and brass articles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel cables and chains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cart gear	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locks, latches and keys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT CONT.

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to apply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Artificial Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nets other than wire nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Racquet & tennis balls	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper bags	-	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pea picking	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feather sorting	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carding etc. of buttons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basket making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chocolates and sweetmeats	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christ- mas stockings etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile weaving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-

1
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FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR

1967

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (End of 1967)

Captain G.T. Clarke.

*Miss H.G. Davey.

A. Dean, Esq.

***Mrs. M.D. Girling.

*C.J.J. Grayston.

A.R. Hake, Esq.

E.G. Hall, Esq.

*W. Haste, Esq.

*S.G. Knight, Esq.

F. Lee, Esq.

R.W.J. Palmer, Esq.

*W.J. Rowland, Esq. (Chairman of the Council)

**F.A. Runnacles, Esq.

*D.C. Rutterford, Esq.

R.H. Sanders, Esq.

*Dr. A. Sherlock,

*T.H. Thompson, Esq.

·W. Yetton Ward, Esq. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

*Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

***Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

**Vice-Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.H. Imrie, T.D. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Joseph Bennett Compton, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

James Marley Yarham, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

Mrs. E. North.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present my report on environmental health in the Urban District for 1967, including information requested in Ministry of Health Circular 1/68.

An endeavour has been made to present a balanced and informed picture of the work done during the year. Viewed comprehensively, local environment standards are highly satisfactory even when measured alongside the town's taken-for-granted reputation for cleanliness.

On the housing front, private house-building is buoyant but, with the public sector trailing, the formation of an active local Housing Association may be one way of broadening the range of homes available to the less affluent. It is a pity that effective progress on the Queen Street Redevelopment Area apparently waits upon Ministerial decision; for Planning and Government Authorities were originally consulted on the merits of the scheme in 1963.

Expansion of the docks continues apace. Disquieting, therefore, is the failure of the Ministry of Health to give a ruling as to the limits of jurisdiction of the Harwich Port Health Authority. The request was first made four years ago when Customs and Excise evidence fixed the boundary as low water mark, Harwich Harbour. Mercifully, the impasse has not been totally unproductive. Out if it has come a new game: Roll-on, roll-off "Ultra Vires".

I am grateful for the support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee and Council and for the help of fellow colleagues on the staff, and am especially indebted to Mr. Yarham and Mrs. North for their invaluable assistance and excellent services.

Yours respectfully,

J.B. Compton

Chief Public Health Inspector.

"Whitehall discovered Transcendental Meditation
before the Beatles were even born".

Mr. Morley Parry,
Ministry of Health.

"And to him was given the key of the
bottomless pit".

Revelation 9.1.

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.
May, 1968.

STATISTICS OF DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	4,281
Estimated Population (mid-1967)	19,490
No. inhabited houses (31.12.67) according to rate books:	6,216
Sum represented by a penny rate :	£2,920
Rateable Value :	£747,017
General Rate : (including County Precept of 8/9)	13/6.

POPULATION

The estimated population of 19,490 represents an increase of 280 over the previous year.

WEATHER

<u>Year</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Rainfall (in inches)	23.692	29.519	29.452	19.505	20.873
Sunshine (Average hours per day)	4.77	4.05	4.28	4.45	4.26

Table 1 records the number and purpose of inspections made and Table 2 the action taken under statutory powers.

NUISANCES

A petition complaining of loss of sleep and annoyance due to pile-driving operations at the docks was delivered to the Department. Representations to the site contractor evoked an assurance that the volume of noise would be kept down to a minimum, especially at night-time. Resolution of the problem was complicated by a pressing timetable for completion, and the vagaries of the tides. Pitching of the piles could not be done at high tide so that, with the labour force available, the noisy second-stage operation of pile-driving had to be done at this tide, which meant pile-driving on some nights.

A number of complaints alleging smell nuisance from the docks were made. The nuisance was ascribed to effluvia from ethyl acrylate in a holder tank. Remedial measures undertaken included the constant and continuous application of a water spray to the external surface of the tank and the construction of a static water seal around the base. Ethyl acrylate is both toxic and highly flammable.

Summary of Inspections

Table 1.

	<u>Total</u>
Houses inspected	249
Re-inspections as to execution of work	810
Drainage systems surveyed and tested	75
Rent Acts, Enquiries and investigations	33
Improvement Grant Surveys and inspections	320
Infectious Disease Control	33
Pest Control	10
Noise Nuisances	16
Other Nuisances and Defects	45
Water Supplies and Sampling	53
Beach Hut Sites	19
Overcrowding Investigations	4
Camping Sites	50
Air Pollution Control	8
Offensive Trades	1
Food Premises (See Table 10)	812
Meat Inspections	157
Food Inspections (excluding meat)	35
Food Poisoning Investigations	-
Factory Acts	52
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	241
Miscellaneous	<u>393</u>
	<u>3,396</u>

Table 2

Action under Statutory powers

Details of notices served are as follows:

Statute	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Complied with in 1967	Outstanding at 31.12.67
(a) Public Health Acts, 1936/61	104	19	54	50
(b) Housing Acts, 1957/64	6	47	17	30
(c) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	22	—	8	14
(d) Factories Act, 1961	2	—	2	—
(e) Food Hygiene Regulations (incl. Stalls & delivery vehicles)	72	—	32	40
(f) Miscellaneous Acts	1	—	—	—
Totals	207	66	113	134

SOIL and TETANUS

Research in the regional distribution of tetanus, the incidence of the causal organisms in different soils and, the resistance of wild strains of *Cl. tetani* to antibiotics is taking place.

Nine samples of local soil were submitted for examination. Only one of the samples yielded *Cl. tetani*, the strain of which was fully toxigenic and sensitive to penicillin and tetracycline.

Apparently the isolation of *Cl. tetani* from soil is by no means easy and its presence in a specimen might easily be missed.

Incidentally, during the year, the Oxford coroner conducted inquests on two women who had both died after contracting tetanus through scratches received while working in their gardens.

CLEAN AIR

There are five industrial furnaces in the Urban District, three of which and their chimneys were given prior approval under the Clean Air Act, 1956. All but one furnace are using smokeless fuels or are so automatically fired as to operate continuously without emitting smoke. Four complaints of black or excessive smoke emissions were investigated during the year.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods)(Vessels) Regulations, 1958

These Regulations make it an offence for a vessel in inland water ways or port and harbour waters to emit dark smoke for longer than a specified period. No contraventions were observed during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

Main Supplies

Water is supplied in bulk by the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking, being purified by means of sedimentation, filtration and chlorination.

Samples of water taken and examined during the year are classified in Table 3, and confirm that treatment was in all respects satisfactory.

Table 3.

Supply	Bacteriological Examination		Chemical Analysis	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Raw untreated water	-	66	66	-
Deep well water (Rushmere)	11	-	10	-
Treated river water (Bucklesham)	40	-	36	-
Town Draw-off Supply Points	23	-	3	-

The natural fluoride content of the water supplied for domestic purposes is 0.1 parts per million. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Main and Other Supplies in the Urban District

Table 4 shows the water supplies, number of houses and population served on 31st December, 1967. That all houses have an adequate supply of wholesome water and only eight are without a piped supply in the dwelling represents a high standard of achievement in this field.

Table 4.

No. of Houses	Served by	Population
6192	Mains Supply	19,326
8	" (Standpipes)	20
16	Bores and Wells	44

Extensions of mains during the year : 1,480 yards.

Children's Paddling Pool

Four samples of water were taken from this pool during its use through the holiday season. One was unsatisfactory. Corrective action was taken immediately on receipt of the unsatisfactory report.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal are reasonably adequate. Table 5 indicates the extent of main drainage.

Table 5

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Provided with</u>
6134	Main Drainage
82	Cesspools/Septic Tanks

Extensions of public sewers during the year : 326 yards.

HOUSING

Ensuring that houses are fit for occupation is an important function of a public health inspector, and involves not only repair, rehabilitation and modernisation but the closing and demolition of houses which cannot be made fit at reasonable expense.

New Dwellings: Figures of houses built in the District since 1945 are given below:

New Dwellings Completed

<u>Year</u>	<u>Private Development</u>	<u>Council Development</u>
1945/1950	51	302
1951	9	75
1952	12	64
1953	38	84
1954	64	103
1955	69	85
1956	64	80
1957	49	45
1958	47	41
1959	35	57
1960	68	25
1961	102	—
1962	78	—
1963	76	10
1964	143	18
1965	98	19
1966	128	47
1967	146	49
Totals	1,277	1,104

Table 6 summarises action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts in respect of individual houses found to be seriously defective or unfit for human habitation. The action considered appropriate depends on the individual circumstances of each case.

The Council's decision to purchase fit and unfit houses ahead of clearance has illumined the long accepted general principle in legislation that a house which is unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense has no value at all. Nowadays, it is not uncommon for the difference between market value and site value of constitutionally identical fit and unfit houses to be as high as £2,000 or more. Critics think that local authorities should acquire property, whether fit or unfit, only at its market value. Logically, this would mean a fit dwelling being bought at full market value and an unfit dwelling at this figure less the estimated cost of making it fit; a figure which would be much higher than the site value paid for such a property at the present time.

Modern local high-rise flats, constructed on the structural frame-infilling panel principle with large areas of glass, many vertical joints and backward sloping canopies and balconies, had their baptism of frost, cold winds and driving rain, with the result that condensation and penetration dampness disfigured internal decorations and furnishings. Although remedial works alleviated conditions, and condensation is as much a product of occupational habits as constructional characteristics, the question whether artistic design is being emphasized at the expense of functionalism must be asked.

Existing Dwellings

Defective or Unfit Houses

Table 6

Number of houses at which defects were remedied after informal action.	49
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice.	4
Number of Demolition Orders made.	4
Number of Closing Orders made.	13
Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation.	2
Number of unfit houses awaiting statutory action (31.12.67)	85

RENT ACTS, 1957/65

Certificates of Disrepair for Rent-controlled Houses

Details of action taken are :

Table 7.

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	8
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	2
(b) in respect of all defects	6
Number of undertakings given by Landlords under paragraph 6 of the First Schedule	7
Number of Certificates issued	1

Although the number of private "controlled" tenancies in the town probably does not exceed 400 and is dwindling each year, the time when their rents should be regulated in accordance with the fair rental provisions of the Rent Act, 1965, is perhaps overdue. In fact, there is a body of opinion which thinks that all rents, including those of Council dwellings, should be fixed in this way, any hardship being alleviated by Ministry of Social Security Supplementary Benefit payments. No doubt this would result in some housing authorities showing a handsome surplus on their revenue account. Amending legislation, it is suggested, should permit such surpluses to be used to finance future local house-building and improvement programmes.

It is an offence for a private landlord unlawfully to evict or harass a tenant or to receive any premium in connexion with the grant, renewal or continuance of a tenancy. "Premium" is so defined as to include any other pecuniary consideration in addition to rent. Two cases alleging harassment and one unlawful eviction were brought to the notice of the Department, and resolved informally. Tenants citing the handing over of premiums - the sum of £500 was mentioned in one instance - were advised to get in touch with solicitors. Nine tenants of dwellings let on a weekly basis were found to be without rent books. Landlords promptly made good the omission on being notified.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

About 200 houses in the town are multi-occupied. The accommodation has been adapted rather than converted; conversion involving the provision of self-contained units. Some sharing of amenities and services inevitably occurs, means of escape from fire are rarely ideal and rents tend to be high. Few of the tenants and landlords seem to have heard of the maximum charges fixed by the Eastern Electricity Board for the resale of electricity, for shared meters proliferate.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT

Two Compulsory House-Improvement Areas have been defined and declared under the Housing Act, 1964. Particulars of the Area declared during the year are recorded in Table 8 and of the compulsory improvement of dwellings outside this area are in Table 9. An Improvement Area is one which contains dwellings lacking one or more of the standard amenities but at least half of which are capable of improvement to the full standard.

During the year, 40 applications for standard grants were received and 35 of them approved. The average cost of a bedroom/bathroom conversion, including the provision of a water closet and a satisfactory food store, amounted to £288, and of similar outbuilding conversion, including the same extra amenities, £625. These costs represent increases of 12% and 16% over the previous year.

The sweeping away of unfit houses incapable of repair is important. None the less, the relative economics of clearance and redevelopment on the one hand and repair and modernisation on the other should be carefully compared. Academic studies have demonstrated that it now costs on average about £1,000 to repair and modernise a house and about £3,000 to build a new one. And this general rule that it is cheaper to repair and improve than renew is true even when the shorter life of the assets poured into the improvements is relevant.

There are two major deficiencies in existing legislation respecting compulsory house improvement : there is no single set of powers for securing the simultaneous repair and modernisation of a home, and local authorities, themselves, are not empowered to initiate individual as well as mass improvement of homes. Obtaining the tenant's written consent to improvements presents problems too, but whether Councils should be permitted to dispense with it is a moot point.

Table 8.

<u>Improvement of Dwellings Inside Improvement Area</u>			
Areas declared	Number		1
containing total dwellings	"		45
improvable dwellings	"		36
Tenanted improvable dwellings	"		36
Preliminary notices served proposing			
improvement to : full standard	" dwellings		
	concerned		36
reduced standard	" "		—
Undertakings given	" "		3
Improvement notices served : Immediate	" "		6
: Suspended	" "		4
: Final	" "		—
Appeals under Section 27	" "		—
Notices withdrawn : Immediate	" "		—
: Suspended	" "		—
: Final	" "		—
Improvement works completed	" "		3

Table 9.

<u>Improvement of Dwellings Outside Improvement Areas</u>				
Preliminary notices served proposing :				
improvement to : full standard	No. dwellings	concerned		11
: reduced standard	"	"	"	—
Undertakings given	"	"	"	2
Improvement notices served	"	"	"	16
Appeals against improvement notices	"	"	"	—
Improvement notices withdrawn	"	"	"	—
Improvement works completed	"	"	"	3

Caravans and Camping

The post-war housing shortage led to the creation of quite large residential caravan parks in many parts of the country. Wisely, the Council adopted a policy opposed to residential caravanning so that, with the exception of those occupied by employees of site operators, all the caravans in the District are of the recreational kind. This way of spending a holiday seems to increase in popularity each year and properly equipped sites must be available to satisfy demand.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, prohibits the use of land as a caravan site unless a site licence has been obtained from a local authority. The authority may attach conditions to a site licence covering such matters as density and space between caravans, the provision of hardstandings, roads, water supply, fire fighting equipment, ablutionary and sanitary facilities, refuse disposal, car parking and recreational space.

Some trouble was experienced with bonfires of refuse at one of the sites. Efficient, on-site incineration is the best means of disposing at source of all but a sterile residue of refuse, provided the atmosphere is not polluted by smoke or odour. To avoid unsightly batteries of bins which have to be provided on sites, a bulk-container collection service at least merits evaluation.

Particulars of licences outstanding at the end of the year are:-

Licences to use land as a site for holiday caravans	Maximum No. of Vans permitted
9	1006
Licences to use land as a site for tented camping	Maximum No. of Tents permitted
1	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Details of food traders in the District are given below:

Table 10.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	No. of Premises fitted to comply with *Reg. 19 *Reg.16	
Cafes and Canteens	63	174	63	63
Hotels and Guest Houses	84	99	84	57
Bakehouses	4	24	4	4
Grocers	35	148	32	32
Butchers	18	52	18	18
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	17	64	16	16
Sweet and Rock Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Confectioners and Sweetshops	21	29	21	21
Licensed Premises	18	31	18	18
Fish Shops (Fried & Wet)	11	21	11	11
Stalls (inc. Mobile Shops)	46	59	-	-
Dairies	1	3	-	-
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	6	5	5
Ice Cream Vendors	106	101	106	106
Totals	431	812	379	352

*Regulations 16 and 19 require the provision of adequate sinks and wash-hand basins with hot and cold supplies.

All the work done in the year to promote satisfactory standards of hygiene in food business was of an advisory and educational nature, traders quickly responding to intimations of unsatisfactory conditions. There is scope for the greater use of single-service "crocks", cutlery and drinking vessels. Washing-up is regarded as a thankless chore even in the trade, and convenience and economy as well as hygiene can be cited in favour of their use.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1967

This legislation came into force on the 1st January, 1967, laying down requirements locally affecting itinerant food vendors and food delivery vehicles. Eight notices of infractions against the regulations were served during the year, mainly on account of the absence of hand-washing facilities.

Food Complaints

Ten cases of foreign substances in food were investigated. They varied from sand in canned raspberries and a piece of metal in a chocolate bar to mould in a prepacked lolly/drink. Legal proceedings were instituted in two instances as follows:

1. Sale of Mouldy Prepacked Apricot Pie -
Result - A Fine of £15.
2. Sale of Sour, Stale and Mouldy Sausages -
Result - A Fine of £15.

Informal action ended the retail sale of wild watercress collected from sewage-contaminated waters.

Compulsory Date Stamping of Perishable Foods

During the year, the Council discussed this subject. The arguments against date-stamping have been rehearsed at length : that it tells the shopper nothing about the freshness of the food before it is packed, how it is processed or how it is stored and handled in the shop, that it might be a deterrent to wrapping, and that it might create a black market in outdated yet fit-to-eat food.

Highly perishable foods like meat pies and fresh cream should have to be stamped with the date by which they must be eaten, their 'life' being determined and qualified by the recommended method of storage after packing.

Alfresco Sales of Fish

Reports of "riverside auctions" of freshly caught fish at Felixstowe Ferry were received and investigated. Whereas, hygienically, the sale of whole fish in this way is a faultless practice, their gutting and cutting on grimy boards with dirty tools is highly objectionable; for the millions of bacteria present in the surface slime, on the gills and in the intestines of the fish are thereby spread around.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

Meat Inspection

A 100% inspection of all carcasses was achieved at the local slaughterhouse (See Table 11 below).

Table 11.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	97	1	14	225	80	-
Number inspected	97	1	14	225	80	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	2	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	2	9	5	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
<u>Cysticercosis carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned</u>						
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Survey to determine Salmonellae organisms in Slaughterhouse Drains

No. of swabs taken 2
No. Positive for Salmonellae Nil

Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934

Whelks are obtainable from Shingle Street and the Orwell Estuary and are cooked before sale.

Three samples of shellfish were taken during the year. The results were satisfactory.

Section 88, Felixstowe U.D.C., Act, 1947

The following registrations have been made :-

- (a) Persons registered as food hawkers - 18
- (b) Persons registered for the storage of food intended for sale from a cart, barrow or other vehicle - 16

Milk and Dairies

There are thirty-four registered distributors and one registered dairy in the district, all dealing in designated heat-treated milks.

Samples of Milk and Fresh Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination

Table 12.

No. of Samples Taken	Type	Results
7	Pasteurised Milk	Satisfactory 7 Unsatisfactory Nil
4	Sterilised Milk	Satisfactory 4 Unsatisfactory Nil
43	Pasteurised Fresh Cream	Satisfactory 17 Unsatisfactory 26
3	Yogurt	Satisfactory 3 Unsatisfactory Nil

All unsatisfactory samples were followed up and, where appropriate, corrective action taken.

Ice Cream

Samples of ice-cream were obtained from fourteen vendors to assess the hygienic standards of manufacture, distribution and storage. The results are shown in the following Table.

Table 13.

Results	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Satisfactory	14	9	-	-
Unsatisfactory	-	-	4	3

Total number of samples	-	30
Satisfactory	-	23
Unsatisfactory	-	7

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Three samples of imported pasteurised liquid egg were submitted to the alpha-amylase test with satisfactory results.

Voluntarily Surrendered Unsound Food

Food suspected of being unsound is either brought by the complainant purchaser to the Public Health Department for examination or made available for inspection at the food premises concerned.

Table 14 records the foodstuffs examined and declared unfit for human consumption outside the local slaughterhouse.

Table 14.

<u>Goods Canned or Packed</u>	
<u>Commodity</u>	<u>No. of Cans or Packs</u>
Frozen Foods	379
Salmon Spread	60
Meat	17
Super Suckers	174
<u>Goods Not Canned or Packed</u>	
Lambs' Livers	10lb.
Lamb	4lb. 6oz.

BYELAWS - HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

There are twenty-five of these premises in Felixstowe, all complying with the basic structural and functional requirements of the local byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1961.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This Act places a statutory duty on the occupier of any land or buildings to notify the Council of an infestation of his premises by rats or mice. The number of notifications or complaints received during the year was:-

Private Houses	84
Business Premises	24
Waste Land or Neglected Building Plots	2

A summary of work appears in the following Table.

Table 15.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
Private dwellings, Council Houses, Allotments etc.	1344	794
Farms	12	1
Business Premises	35	62
Council works & Depots	14	32

Private dwellings are treated without charge. Treatment at business premises is conditional upon the payment of the costs incurred.

Disinfections and Disinfestations

Rooms and Bedding	10
Wasps' Nests Destroyed	104
Bees' Nests Destroyed	3

It was a good year for wasps. They always do well when a mild spring is followed by a dry summer and an unusual abundance of honeydew produced by swarming aphids from May onwards helped. In contrast, houseflies were relatively scarce. Apparently this is an accepted phenomenon of a good "wasp year" : the wasps preventing the houseflies from unduly multiplying.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN SHOPS AND OFFICES

Implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, has brought about a big improvement in working conditions in these premises, the majority of which locally attain, if not surpass, statutory standards.

Table 16 lists local registrations (excluding family business and factory offices) and general inspections, Table 17 the class of workplace and numbers of persons employed and Table 18 analyses the contraventions discovered.

Accidents Notified

One accident only was notified as follows:

Employee twisted leg while sorting stock.

Table 16.

Class of Premises	No. of premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	10	76	43
Retail Shops	5	142	79
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	1	1	1
Catering establish- ments open to the public, Canteens	—	25	5
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1
Totals	16	245	129

Table 17

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Office	1,069
Retail shops	625
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering departments open to the public	127
Canteens	14
Fuel storage depots	<u>13</u>
Total	1,851
Total Males	800
Total Females	<u>1,051</u>

Table 18.

<u>Analysis of Contraventions</u>		
Section		Number of Contraventions Found
4	Cleanliness	2
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	3
7	Ventilation	3
8	Lighting	-
9	Sanitary Conveniences	-
10	Washing Facilities	2
11	Supply of Drinking Water	-
12	Clothing Accommodation	-
13	Sitting Facilities	-
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15	Eating Facilities	-
16	Floors, passages & stairs	5
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	6
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid General Provision	<u>-</u>
		21

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	48	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	57	53	2	-

There are 57 registered factories in the town, mainly engaged in light engineering.

Most of the factories were inspected during the year, the premises generally being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

There is one registered outworker in the town.

	Number of cases in which defects were:-				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.	By H.M	
			Inspector	Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of clean- liness (S2)	11-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were :-				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary con- veniences:					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable			-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

Section 110

Section 111

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(C)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to apply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) . Apparel) Making etc. Cleaning & Washing	1	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains & nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & upholstery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plaste	-	-	-	-	-	-
File making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and brass articles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel cables and chains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cart gear	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locks, latches and keys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT CONT.

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to apply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cution
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Artificial Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nets other than wire nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Racquet & tennis balls	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper bags	-	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pea picking	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feather sorting	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carding etc. of buttons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basket making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chocolates and sweetmeats	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christ- mas stockings etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile weaving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-

General Provision of Health and Other Services in the Area

Clinics

Anti-natal (Relaxation and Motherhood)

Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Orwell Road.

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 2 - 4 p.m.

Infant Welfare Centres

Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Orwell Road.

Monday afternoon 2 - 4 p.m.

Salvation Army Hall, High Street:) Alternate Thursday
St Philip's Church Hall, Wadgate Road) 2 - 4 p.m.

Home Help Service

Organiser for Felixstowe

Miss K.M. Tillett, Welfare Office, South Beach Mansion.

Tuesday and Friday mornings 9 - 10 a.m.

Area Welfare Officer

Miss D. Eyles, South Beach Mansion.

9 - 10 a.m., daily (Monday to Friday)

Rent Officer

K. Harding, Esq., 38, St Matthews Street, Ipswich.

Telephone : Ipswich 51713.

Rent Tribunal

The Clerk, Shirehall Chambers, Norwich. NOR 66B.

Telephone : Norwich 22288.

Family Advice Centre

Children's Officer, South Beach Mansion.

Thursday 2.30 - 5 p.m.

Family Planning

Felixstowe General Hospital, Outpatients Dept.

First and third Tuesday every month.

